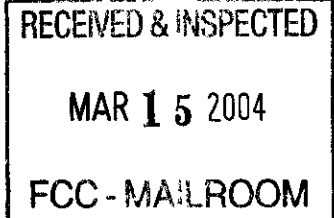


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JANIE P. BARNETT, M.S., CCC-A
AUDIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
VESTIBULAR TESTING

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 01-309

I am writing comments in response to the petitions filed by various parties requesting the Commission to reconsider the Report and Order that modified the exemption for wireless phones under the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1998.

The FCC rules requires digital phone manufacturers and service providers to take steps to reduce the amount of interference emitted from digital wireless phones and to provide the internal capability for telecoil coupling. I urge you to keep the rule in tact so that people like me, who use hearing aids, can have access to digital wireless phones.

As a physician with hearing loss who uses hearing aids, these requirements are vital if I am to be able to function in my service to my patients. Analog service is not available anymore, with the shift to digital telephones. Pay phones are either out of order or disappearing completely and I have not been successful in finding a digital mobile phone that I can use successfully with my telecoil. I am very hopeful that as the industry complies with the FCC rule that I will have the option to buy and use a digital mobile phone like everyone else.

Being able to "test drive" the phone in the store before I purchase a plan is also very important. It is inconvenient to have to buy the phone and then find out when I get home that it does not work with my hearing aid and then lose money when I break the service contract I have already signed up for.

The 50% requirement is reasonable, both for me to have choices and to not be a burden on the manufacturers. Please do not reduce the percentage requirement.

Thank you for listening to me and please retain the rule.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Hammerschlag".

Paul E. Hammerschlag, MD, F.A.C.S.

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